

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A map display terminal for displaying a current position on a map by deriving the current position on the basis of a position information from a satellite, comprising:
  - 5 first means for displaying a wide area map having smaller reduced scale than a detailed map and centered at said current position upon displaying said detailed map centered at said current position.
- 10 2. A map display terminal as set forth in claim 1, which further comprises second means for displaying the initially displayed wide area map with expansion in step-by-step manner until said detailed map is displayed.
- 15 3. A map display terminal as set forth in claim 2, wherein said second means includes means for downloading detailed map information from a server storing said detailed map information.
- 20 4. A map display terminal as set forth in claim 3, which is a portable communication terminal.
5. A map display terminal as set forth in claim 4, wherein a communication between said portable communication terminal  
25 and said server is performed through a portable telephone

network.

6. A map display terminal as set forth in claim 4, wherein  
a communication between said portable communication terminal  
5 and said server is performed through a packet network.

7. A map display terminal as set forth in claim 3, wherein  
said second means expands display of said wide area map in  
step-by-step manner depending upon progress of downloading of  
10 said detailed map information.

8. A map display terminal as set forth in claim 4, wherein  
said second means includes means for calculating an expansion  
ratio at each display stage on the basis of a ratio of reduced  
15 scales of said wide area map and said detailed map, number of  
display stages, progress of downloading.

9. A map display method for displaying a map of a current  
position by deriving said current position on the basis of a  
20 position information from a satellite, comprising:

first step of displaying a wide area map having smaller  
reduced scale than a detailed map and centered at said current  
position upon displaying said detailed map centered at said  
current position.

10. A map display method as set forth in claim 9, which further comprises second step of displaying the initially displayed wide area map with expansion in step-by-step manner until said detailed map is displayed.

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11. A map display method as set forth in claim 10, wherein said second step includes step of downloading detailed map information from a server storing said detailed map information.

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12. A map display method as set forth in claim 11, wherein a communication between said portable communication terminal and said server is performed through a portable telephone network.

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13. A map display method as set forth in claim 11, wherein a communication between said portable communication terminal and said server is performed through a packet network.

20 14. A map display method as set forth in claim 11, wherein said second step expands display of said wide area map in step-by-step manner depending upon progress of downloading of said detailed map information.

25 15. A map display method as set forth in claim 14, wherein

said second step includes step for calculating an expansion ratio at each display stage on the basis of a ratio of reduced scales of said wide area map and said detailed map, number of display stages, progress of downloading.

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16. A storage medium storing a map display control program for displaying a map of a current position by deriving said current position on the basis of a position information from a satellite, said control program comprising:

10 first step of displaying a wide area map having smaller reduced scale than a detailed map and centered at said current position upon displaying said detailed map centered at said current position.

15 17. A storage medium as set forth in claim 16, which further comprises second step of displaying the initially displayed wide area map with expansion in step-by-step manner until said detailed map is displayed.